



The eTwinner

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Dear eTwinners,

And here we are already at the beginning of a new scholastic year and excitement is booming. eTwinning too has been busy preparing the various activities and events which will take place in the coming months. As a sneak peak we can announce that we have a series of eTwinning webinars coming up so stay tuned to our social media channels and school circulars for more information.

Our ambassadors have concluded the evaluations of the projects which have submitted an application for the National Quality Label. Well done to all participants of the projects even if you have not been awarded the Quality Label the comments and feedback by our expert ambassadors can support you to improve any future projects.

Looking back as usual this has been a busy and satisfactory year. During the online celebration,

where our awarded eTwinning Schools came together to share their eTwinning journeys we were delighted to have as special guest Anne Gilleran, the senior pedagogical expert for eTwinning. During the celebration Anne announced that once again Malta ranked in 1st place in the ratio number of eTwinning Schools per capita amongst the European countries. This means that our educators and members of the senior leadership team are working together through shared leadership to promote eTwinning as a pedagogical tool encouraging collaboration and team work through digital resources.

Schoolovision was also a great success as Malta placed 3rd notwithstanding the unprecedented difficulties of the pandemic. Well done Hamrun GP Primary school!

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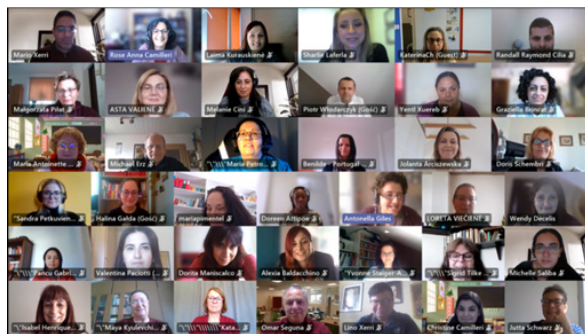
MEDIA LITERACY AND DISINFORMATION

EUROPEAN SEMINAR

Doris Schembri (eTwinning Ambassador)

This year's eTwinning annual theme 'Media Literacy and Disinformation' was the focus of the eTwinning European Seminar (MALTA) held on 24th April 2021. Although the Covid19 pandemic prevented enthusiastic eTwinners from meeting face to face, the Malta National Support Service in collaboration with the Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills organised this seminar as an online event. Fifty-two dedicated educators from twelve European countries including Malta participated in this seminar. During their opening speeches, Dr. Rose-anne Camilleri, National eTwinning coordinator and Mr. Grazio Grixti, Director of DDLTS, both emphasised the need for online safety, especially during this pandemic era when students and educators seem to be forever plugged to their tablets and laptops. The seminar keynote speaker, Ms. Sabrina Vorbau, project Manager at European Schoolnet provided seminar participants with insights, tips and resources to handle issues

such as disinformation and foster the media literacy education within their school community.



Four parallel workshops, led by eTwinning ambassadors and experts in digital literacy, focused on the eTwinning Twinspace and on the use of online digital tools. The afternoon workshops aimed to equip educators with understandings on how to tackle misinformation, disinformation and hate speech. Through a padlet dedicated to finding project partners, the participants shared prospective and innovative project ideas. This eTwinning seminar highlighted the importance of media literacy education and how digital literacy is fundamental to avoid risks and staying safe online.

ONLINE SAFETY POSTERS

as part of the eTwinning project:
Think, Act, Inspire!

Melanie Cini (eTwinning Ambassador)

Think, Act, Inspire! is an eTwinning Collaboration spanning between October 2020 and June 2021 between 6 European schools: St Nicholas College, Secondary School, Malta; - IISS "A. Volta" di Nicosia, Nicosia, Italy; St. St. Cyril and Methodius – Bulgaria; 1st Junior High School of Markopoulos, Greece; Agrupamento de Escolas A Lã e a Neve, Covilhã, Portugal; IES Escultor José Luis Sánchez, Almansa, Spain.

This project is about self-reflection and inspiring others through our actions. Various topics including as self-care, gratitude during the pandemic and sustainable development were tackled throughout the project. Whilst in Malta, the project was carried out through PSCD lessons, in the other schools it was included as part of languages, citizenship and other social sciences.

One particular area that is very important to us is Online Safety. As project partners we came up with guidelines regarding netiquette, GDPR, copyright and online safety. These guidelines were presented to our students in class at the beginning of the year. Students discussed these guidelines and shared their

input on a Twinboard on Twinspace. During Safer Internet Week, we delivered lessons about different aspects of Internet Safety: How to Manage Your Digital Footprint, How to share your views on social media, How to Use content shared on the internet that is produced by others, how to maintain online relationships safely, how to check what to believe that you find online.

Following these lessons, students were split into 5 mixed nationality groups as per topics mentioned and work together to come up with tips for these areas. These tips were turned into posters. In Italy these posters were printed and presented during a live exhibition by the students themselves, in Malta we showed a Be Smart Online video and presented the posters during a special assembly and are now being shown on the monitors in the school foyer. Other schools decided to put them up on the students' lockers before students went back to school. The posters may be viewed and downloaded here: [Internet Safety Posters](#).

RESHAPING IVET IMAGE AND ATTRACTIVENESS THROUGH MEDIA LITERACY

eTwinning Online Professional Development Workshop
(24-26 March, 2021)

Workshop 1

"I read the news today, oh boy" Workshop on eTwinning project kit:
Comparing news and media content

Tiina Sarisalmi (Project coordinator, eTwinning ambassador, Finland)

The idea of this workshop was a walk-through the project kit/plan, so that participants can use it with their students for teaching media literacy and developing their English communication and ICT skills. In the workshop we used easy ICT tools for collaborative online work, communication, comparing and constructing information. The workshop was very hands-on and dealt with current news.

Workshop 2

Media literacy tools of and for empowerment

Miguela Fernandes (eTwinning ambassador, Portugal)

In this workshop we were exposed to various digital tools that can be used and applied in media literacy activities within Vocational Education and Training.

Lots of interesting Media Literacy tools were mentioned:

- Webwewant.eu – A site full of resources on eSafety: handbooks for teens, handbooks for educators, lesson plans and eSafety activities
- En.unesco.org/fightfakenews – A site with lots of ideas for teachers to use as regards Fake News and Disinformation
- Infowars.com – A site full of fake news to show as an example

- <https://youtu.be/bE1KWpoX9Hk> - A YouTube video that shows how easy it is to fake news with today's existing technologies
- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/11/21/science/artificial-intelligence-fake-people-faces.html> - An interactive display of fake faces
- <https://generated.photos/faces> - An AI face generator
- <https://tineye.com/> and <https://images.google.com/> - Reverse Image Search engines to find whether an image is fake or not
- <https://vo.codes/#speak> - Voice generators example making celebrities say what you want
- <https://reporterslab.org/fact-checking/> - A global map for websites in each country that are able to do fact-checking
- <https://unesco.exposure.co/cartoons-for-freedom-of-expression> - Cartoons to elicit discussion on freedom of expression
- <https://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp> - A newspaper clipping generator

Workshop 3

Tackling disinformation screen to screen: making a difference in pandemic times and beyond

Adeline Brion and Annkatrin Kaiser (Lie Detectors, Belgium)

In this workshop, we learned about how to address fake news, and to integrate news literacy and source verification into classroom conversations. Moving from theory to practice, we learned about the tips and tools necessary to design engaging learning experiences in our classrooms.

Workshop speakers come from a European non-profit organisation (Lie Detectors - <https://lie-detectors.org/>) whose aim is to turn school children into powerful lie detectors and critical thinkers. Journalists from this organisation do talks in schools about discrimination and quality standards of journalism.

To sort real news from fake news, we learned how to use the IFLA "how to spot fake news" checklist - https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/topics/info-society/images/how_to_spot_fake_news.pdf

eTWINNING SCHOOL ONLINE CELEBRATION 2020-2021

Doris Schembri (*eTwinning Ambassador*)

This year proved to be another accomplishment when eleven Maltese Schools were awarded the eTwinning School Label Online Award on 3rd June, for their commendable contribution in the field of eTwinning. In her opening speech, Dr. Roseanne Camilleri, thanked all the dedicated eTwinning educators who committed their time and efforts to render eTwinning a pedagogical pillar where all learners can collaborate and share enriching learning experiences. In the words of Ms Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, eTwinning is part of the European success story in education as it is established on common unifying values.

Dr. Frank Fabri, the Permanent Secretary for Education commended the professionalism and dedication of eTwinning educators and their students, who, despite the Covid19 challenges, have been able to maximise the use of the latest

technology like the recently introduced flat panels and all in one computers. Mr. Grazio Grixti, Director of Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills at the Ministry for Education, stressed the importance of equipping both students and educators with digital competences across the curriculum, especially with regards to online safety, mutual online respect and effective communication skills while safeguarding a green and digital European economy.

In her presentation, Anne Gilleran, Senior Pedagogical Expert for eTwinning, explained that in 2018, after 12 years of eTwinning, the eTwinning School Quality Label was introduced to recognize and reward the combined effort of school leaders, educators, students and their schools. eTwinning Schools are proactive leaders, which promote teaching and learning through online collaboration while creating a safe online environment where all efforts are appreciated and encouraged.



This year 75% of the eTwinning School Quality Labels were granted to the schools which applied, ranking Malta as the best in Europe when considering the current ratio of awarded eTwinning Schools.

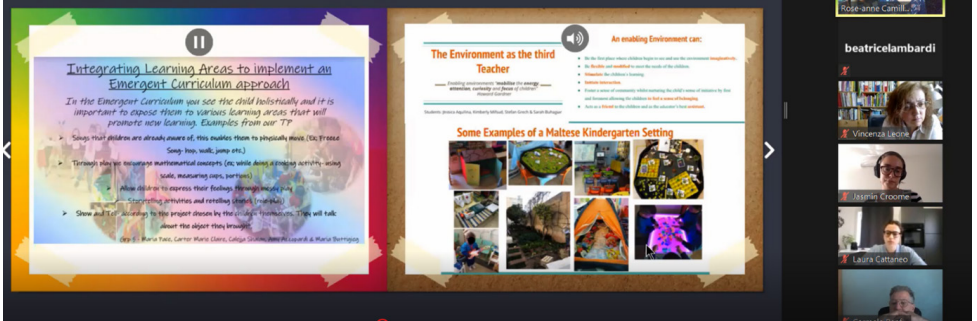
During this celebration, the awarded Maltese Schools have showcased their efforts through various presentations. They have proved to be enormously successful in promoting the eTwinning School collaborative concept. The eleven schools are:

1. St. Nicholas College, Mgarr Primary School
2. San Gorg Preca College, Hamrun GP Primary
3. Gozo College Sannat Primary School & Special Unit
4. St Margaret College, Vittoriosa Primary School
5. St. Theresa College Secondary

6. St. Claire College Sliema Primary School
7. St Margaret College, Kalkara Primary
8. St. Ignatius College Qormi San Gorg
9. St. Francis Primary School Cospicua
10. St. Benedict College, Qrendi Primary
11. Digital Literacy Centre, Hamrun

These schools certainly deserve our praise. In the words of Anne Gilleran, they are a true model of effective teamwork where, through shared leadership, students, educators and school leaders develop schools as learning organisations supporting systemic change on a European level.

An eTwinning Event for Initial Teacher Education in Higher Education Institutions: Malta and Italy



On the 27th of May 2021, Dr Charmaine Bonello (University of Malta) and Dr Vincenza Leone (Universita' Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy) organised an online eTwinning event for their colleagues and students pursuing courses in initial teacher education.

This collaboration was made possible thanks to the help and support of Dr Rose Anne Camilleri, the National Support Service Coordinator for eTwinning Malta. The event was titled: *The Emergent Curriculum: Students' Experiences in Maltese and Italian Early Years Settings*. Students from both universities presented the knowledge they gained about an emergent curriculum approach for the early years and their experiences of implementing it within Maltese

and Italian settings. Successes and challenges were shared through various presentations and an eBook, and these were then further discussed in breakout rooms. One rapporteur from each group shared the highlights of the small group discussions with the whole group to conclude this event. It was a fun and meaningful learning experience for all grounded in dialogue, collaboration, active participation, constructing knowledge through social interaction, and building relationships - a perfect match with the philosophical underpinnings of an emergent approach to curriculum and eTwinning pedagogy.

Dr Charmaine Bonello
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